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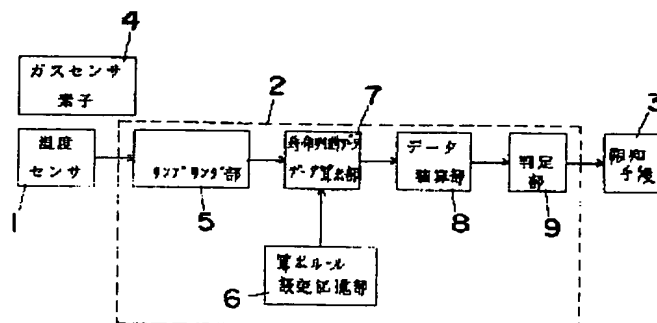
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APPLICANT : MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD;

INVENTOR : HATAI TAKASHI;

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TITLE : ELECTROCHEMICAL GAS SENSOR



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To notify the lifetime of a sensor to a user by detecting the deterioration of sensitivity easily and accurately.

CONSTITUTION: A sensor 1 for detecting the ambient temperature is disposed contiguously to a gas sensor element 4. Output from the temperature sensor 1 is sampled at the sampling section 5 of an operating means 2 at a predetermined time interval to obtain a temperature data. The temperature data is converted, at a data calculating section 7, into a lifetime decision data based on a calculation rule prestored at a calculation rule setting memory section 6. A data accumulating section 8 accumulates the numeric values of lifetime decision data and the accumulated value is compared with a predetermined threshold value at a deciding section 9. It is decided that the lifetime of the gas sensor element 4 has expired when the threshold value is exceeded and a signal is delivered to a notifying means 3. Upon receiving the signal, the notifying means 3 notifies the expiration of lifetime to a user by means of voice or light.

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